

Environmental Executive Notes

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News from the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Environmental Laboratory

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CANUSTEP

A Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of National Defence of Canada and the U.S. Department of Defense has led to the initiation of a project arrangement. The Canadian/U.S. Test and Evaluation Program (CANUSTEP) will include scientists from the Environmental Laboratory and the Defence Research Establishment Valcartier. These scientists will collaborate on developing characterization protocols for explosives contamination on live fire testing and training ranges in the United States and Canada. Under the agreement, scientists from both agencies are allowed to work together on ranges in both countries. The project is funded by the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program.

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EMRIS Goes On-line

Looking for a decision support/information system that allows rapid access to important environmental analyses and ecosystem management tools? The Ecosystem Management and Restoration Information System (EMRIS) may be just what you've been waiting for! EMRIS is available on-line at <http://www.wes.army.mil/el/emrrp/emris/emrishelp.htm>. EMRIS is a *word-searchable*, computer-based decision support/information system that will be updated annually to ensure that its tools and guidance remain state of the art and user-oriented.

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ERDC EL Web site: www.wes.army.mil/el

CRDA with The Nature Conservancy

ERDC EL met with representatives of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Peoria, IL, on 14-15 June 2001 to discuss national and international collaboration opportunities on environmental studies and activities. As a result of this meeting, TNC and ERDC have prepared a draft Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRDA), presently in review, to formalize the collaboration. Once signed, the CRDA can serve as an implementing document for the Memorandum of Understanding signed in December 2000 between the Corps and TNC. This agreement can also allow the ERDC to provide worldwide R&D support to this internationally recognized non-governmental organization.

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ERDC Participates in EPA Technical Support Project

ERDC recently provided technical presentations on capping approaches for remediation of contaminated sediments at the EPA Technical Support Project (TSP) Annual Meeting in San Diego, 7-10 May, 2001. The TSP annual meeting focuses on topics of interest to the EPA Groundwater and Engineering Forums, both comprised of EPA remedial project managers and technical support specialists. This year's meeting focused on the topic of Contaminated Sediment Remediation, and the ERDC presentations covered both in situ capping and contained aquatic disposal options in the remediation context.

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SPME Analysis

ERDC's Environmental Chemistry Branch has made significant progress on solid phase microscale extraction (SPME)/analysis of RDX breakdown products. Progress has been centered on extraction/derivatization/ analysis of hydrazines, methanol, and formaldehyde using SPME fibers for extraction followed by analysis using GC/NPD (gas chromatography using a nitrogen-phosphorus detector) or GC/MS (gas chromatography/ mass spectrometry). Solid phase microscale extraction has great potential for research applications as the techniques are further developed. The interlaboratory research project, originated by Drs. Steve Larson and Neal Adrian, is supported by ERDC personnel in Vicksburg and Omaha.

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DOER Team Wins Award

The Dredging Operations and Environmental Research (DOER) Team won first place for the Corps Project delivery Team of The Year Award. Members of the team are as follows:

Dr. Robert M. Engler
Dr. William McAnally
Dr. Douglas G. Clarke
Mr. James Clausner
Mr. James Rosati
Dr. Lyndell Hales
Dr. Michael Palermo
Mr. Norman Francingues
Dr. Todd Bridges
Mr. E. Clark McNair
Ms. Elke Briuer



Attending the ceremony (right to left) Lt. Gen Robert Flowers, Dr. Robert Engler, Mr. Norman Francingues, Dr. Todd Bridges, Dr. Michael Palermo, and Ms. Elke Briuer, APR

The citation for the award reads as follows:

The Dredging Operations and Environmental Research (DOER) Program's project delivery team actively pursued a formal program of technology infusion of results related to dredging and environmental issues. The team successfully transferred resulting processes, technology, knowledge, tools, and products to Corps and other stakeholders as well as national and international partners. Products from the Environmental Windows, Risk, Instrumentation, Contaminated Sediments, Nearshore/Aquatic Placement, and Innovative Technologies Focus Areas reached audiences worldwide. The DOER team developed a plan with clear objectives for technology transfer and application, involving and reaching out to all stakeholders affected by the various research areas. Through synergistic interaction and solutions, and through a unified corporate approach to electronic publishing of all research results on a well-used Web site, the DOER PDT has reached national and international audiences, led by USACE and DoD. As evidenced by the honors, awards, and invitations to participate in projects and events worldwide, this Project Management Business Process (PMBP) approach shows customer satisfaction at a high level.

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Award for NRM Gateway Team

Kathleen Perales, ERDC, and the Natural Resources Management (NRM) Gateway Team will receive the 2001 William Penn Mott Jr. Award for Excellence. The NRM team is being recognized for their efforts in developing the NRM Gateway, an integrated knowledge management system for the recreation business area. This award, which is sponsored by the National Society for Park Resources, will be presented in October at the 2001 National Recreation and Park Association Congress in Denver, CO. The NRM Gateway can be accessed at: <http://CorpsLakes.usace.army.mil>

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Upcoming Environmental Events

September 24-25, 2001, Atlanta, GA, "Southeast Focus Ground Water Conference," **POC:** Julie Shaw, 800-551-7379, Ext. 554

September 25-27, 2001, Biloxi, MS, "11th Southern States Annual Environmental Conference and Exhibition," **POC:** MISSTAP, 662-325-8068, lindig@che.msstate.edu

October 1-4, 2001, Alexandria, VA, "11th International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species," **POC:** www.aquatic-invasive-species-conference.org

October 22-25, 2001, Amherst, MA, "17th Annual International Conference on Contaminated Soils, Sediments, and Water," **POC:** Denise Leonard, 413-545-1239, info@UmassSoils.com

November 5-7, 2001, St. Pete Beach, FL, "7th International Conference on Estuarine and Coastal Modeling (ECM7)," **POC:** www.oce.uri.edu/emc7

November 6-9, 2001, Houston, TX, "Eighth Annual International Petroleum Environmental Conference," **POC:** 918-631-2347, ipecenrollment@utulsa.edu

Workshop

Partners in Environmental Technology Technical Symposium and Workshop

Partners in Environmental Technology will sponsor a Technical Symposium and Workshop, "Building on Past Successes to Address Emerging Issues," at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, D.C. on November 27-29, 2001. This event is sponsored by the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP) and the Environmental Security Technology Certification Program (ESTCP). For additional information, visit www.serdp.org or www.estcp.org or call the Symposium Information Line at (703) 736-4548.